Production Information

20th Century Studios' "Quiz Lady," a hilarious and heartfelt comedy starring Awkwafina and Sandra Oh about a dysfunctional family and the game show which just might be the key to their salvation, will premiere November 3, 2023, exclusively on Hulu in the U.S., Star+ in Latin America, and Disney+ in all other territories.

In the original film, a brilliant but tightly wound, gameshow-obsessed young woman, Anne (Awkwafina), and her estranged, train-wreck of a sister Jenny (Sandra Oh), must work together to help cover their mother's gambling debts. When Anne's beloved dog is kidnapped, they set out on a wild, cross-country trek to get the cash the only way they know how: by turning Anne into a bona fide gameshow champion. The movie, which also stars Jason Schwartzman, Holland Taylor, Tony Hale, and Will Ferrell, is directed by Jessica Yu, written by Jen D'Angelo, and produced by Will Ferrell, Jessica Elbaum, Maggie Haskins, Itay Reiss, Jen D'Angelo, Awkwafina, and Sandra Oh, with Alex Brown and Erika Hampson serving as executive producers.

About the Production

Principal photography on "Quiz Lady" took place from June to July 2022, in both Los Angeles and New Orleans. The talented creative team helping bring "Quiz Lady" to life includes director of photography Adrian Peng Correia (Hulu's "Ramy"), production designer Jeff Mann (Netflix's "Red Sea Diving Resort"), costume designer Brenda Abbandandolo (Apple TV+'s "Coda"), and editor Susan Vaill, ACE ("Hacks").

The origins of "Quiz Lady" date back to 2016, when writer/producer Jen D'Angelo ("Hocus Pocus 2") had a brilliantly comedic idea and sat down to pen a screenplay. It was a sibling comedy that ended with two estranged sisters coming together and overcoming both their separation and the odds to help each other reset their lives.

When D'Angelo finished her screenplay, she took it to producer Maggie Haskins, a partner at Artists First, who represents the writer, who immediately fell in love with the script. "Jen's first draft was hysterical, just absolutely fantastic; it made me giggle like a hundred times," Haskins says. "It was one of those projects that was just so special, and I wanted to make sure that we put it together right because I think Jen deserved that. The script deserved that."

She mentioned it to her colleague Itay Reiss ("Inside Amy Schumer"), who had previously worked with Awkwafina on the hit Comedy Central show "Awkwafina is Nora from Queens," and thought it might appeal to the actress.

Reiss recalls, "I read the script within the next couple of days, and I loved it. And there is a quiz show element to this movie, and it just so happened that Nora was highlighted in a famous quiz show the night we had sent her the script. So, it was a little bit kismet and she read it and loved it, too."

Reiss began his career in Hollywood as an agent at UTA, where he used to work with Sandra Oh. "We all thought she would be a great idea to play the sister," he says. "We got it to Sandra, and she loved it. And, at the same time, we found some great partners in Jessica Elbaum and Alex Brown from Gloria Sanchez Productions.

"Itay and Maggie sent me the script," remembers Elbaum. "Awkwafina and I had known each other for a while and we'd been looking to do something together, and when Itay called, saying he had a script written by Jen D'Angelo, whom I've been a fan of forever, I was like, 'Say no more. I don't even need to read it.' But then I read it, and of course, loved it."

As a partner with Elbaum in Gloria Sanchez Productions, Will Ferrell came on board to produce, and at the same time was curious as to who would play the Terry role. And it just so happened that, timing-wise, it worked out and he wanted to do it. "I loved the story of two sisters, slightly estranged, who find a way to reconnect through this game show," Ferrell says. "It was just such a unique, simple, but really fun way for them to kind of revisit their lives."

When looking for someone to direct, Jessica Yu became the obvious choice. The talented director, who won an Oscar® in 1996 for her documentary "Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien," has directed for a slew of popular TV series, including "American Horror Story," "Citadel," "This is Us" and "The Morning Show," as well as the acclaimed limited series "Fosse/Verdon."

"Jessica was just another great piece of the puzzle," says Ferrell. "We thought it was super important to have a female director to connect in ways that I don't know that a male director would. But it was just another layer, and she had already done so many great things."

"It was the kind of project you dream of," says Yu. "Jen's script was so funny and inspired, plus Sandra Oh and Awkwafina playing sisters? Yes, please! From cast to crew, we had the A team. The only hiccups on set were when someone busted a take by laughing."

"We wanted to make a comedy with emotional stakes," Yu continues. "The chemistry between Awkwafina and Sandra really brings it home."

The Brilliant Comedic Cast

Anne Yum is played Golden Globe® winner Awkwafina ("The Farewell"), an actress/comedian who has also appeared in such box office hits as "Oceans 8" and "Crazy Rich Asians" and has lent her voice to animated characters in films including "The Little Mermaid" and "Raya and the Last Dragon." Anne is a reclusive loner who is content living a simple life with her dog Mr. Linguini. She has a monotonous job at C.P. Yay! Accounting, and comes from a family with complicated dynamics, so she has found solace in the television game show "Can't Stop the Quiz," which she has watched every day since she was 4 years old.

"Anne is someone who I think has a level of phobias in her mind," says Awkwafina. "She lives in this little comfortable snow globe as a way of hiding from the world. She really would just prefer to be invisible. She doesn't want any trouble in her life, and she doesn't really want to stray past the comfort of her own couch."

In describing the character, screenwriter/producer Jen D'Angelo says, "Anne is definitely against type and not how we're used to seeing Awkwafina, but she hit it out of the park. It was really cool to see her slip into a character that is pretty anti-social and really introverted and then come back to being herself, which is just this lovely ball of energy that everyone wants to be around."

"The script was really, really funny, and in a really relatable voice for me," says Awkwafina. "It was a really simple premise but done in a way that was unique and really funny. Plus, Jen (D'Angelo) and I watch all the same movies, and her 90's quotes were just the best."

Director Jessica Yu says, "Awkwafina's character, Anne, is convinced that her life is fine, that she is quite happy. She has her job, she's got her dog, she's got her quiz show that she loves to watch every night; she's got it all worked out, and she doesn't want or need any disruption...that's what she's been trying to escape from. But there's something deep inside her that knows this isn't it."

Awkwafina treasured the entire production process, especially her time working with Yu. "It was such an incredibly insane energy of warmth, of acceptance, of curiosity, and of the ability to listen to everyone," Awkwafina explains.

"It was such a crazy, warm, secure, and safe environment that I felt like there was no way to not do improv, and I am such a huge fan of Sandra Oh, too," Awkwafina says. "She is, in my opinion, one of the best comedic actresses working today. And to get to play stupid with her was just so much fun. It was the perfect environment for improv."

Sandra Oh plays Anne's estranged older sister, Jenny Yum, a self-serving and reckless free spirit. A flaky dream-chaser, she prefers to march to the beat of her own drum. Oh is a two-time Golden Globe® winner ("Grey's Anatomy," "Saturday Night Live") and four-time SAG Award® winner ("Grey's Anatomy," "Killing Eve," "Sideways").

"When I first got Jen's script, I could tell it was funny and I could tell the type of humor that she was going for, which was the type of humor that I was interested in doing at that time: to go to

the outer limits and to be broad," says Oh. "I really wanted to try a broad comedy. I wanted to try an outrageous character. I wanted to try and push all those limits, and the quality, the heart, and the funniness in the script were all there from the very beginning."

"Jenny Yum has got a lot of hair. She's got a lot of tattoos. She's got a lot of nails. She's got a lot of stuff. She is a lot," continues Oh. "She's a fantastic character who is really, really, inappropriate and self-serving and really is in it to win it for herself at all times."

"Jenny is the older sister who bailed because she couldn't deal with their mom," adds Yu. "She went off to chase her dream, which keeps evolving: she wanted to be an actor, then it was a singer, then it was a designer. She is just irresponsible and disorganized all the time."

"All I can say is that we had the best time shooting this movie," says Oh. "In fact, it was one of the best experiences of my career. It was so much fun. I can't wait to see all the outtakes, because Awkwafina was terrible…she burst out laughing all the time."

Three-time Emmy Award® winner Will Ferrell ("Saturday Night Live," "Succession") is Terry McTeer, the amiable, bowtie-wearing host of the television game show "Can't Stop the Quiz." The show is his life, and he truly loves his contestants and is enamored with their intelligence and knowledge.

"Terry McTeer is the kindest man in the world, and he hosts this very aggressive game show that doesn't care if you are a nervous person or not," explains D'Angelo. "He's got a great hall of bow ties and he loves stories, and he loves humans, and he loves creating the history of the show. He's also a person who doesn't really know a lot of trivia. He's not book smart at all, and that was one of my favorite things to discover about that character is how delighted he is by smart people because he doesn't know anything."

One of Ferrell's most popular impersonations on "SNL" was "Jeopardy" host Alex Trebeck, and the actor/producer acknowledges there is "a slight tip of the cap" to the character. "I think this is an homage to Al," Ferrell says. "I only met him once, but I feel like this is the way he would handle himself, which was very judicious with every contestant and very, very sweet to everyone because in that universe he's a god. I think Terry is the same, very levelheaded, and very sweet. But the great thing about Terry is that he loves to express himself. Alex Trebek, I don't think he would editorialize as much as Terry does. But Terry often talks about how much he loves these contestants and knowledge, and he learns something new every day. And so that was a very fun aspect of the character. And he wears a different bow tie every show, which will be a critical plot point later."

And "Can't Stop the Quiz" is a much harder game show. "Contestants are given a category and have to list facts without any prompting or any hints," Ferrell explains, "And then you have to be good at charades because there is another segment called 'Flip It' where you flip a giant coin and you either 'Say It' or 'Show It,' and then you have to act out the category. So, you have to be, not only super smart and have an encyclopedic knowledge of everything on planet Earth, but then

you have to be able to do charades as well, so it is a unique combination, but it is America's favorite game show."

"Will was just a complete delight to work with," says Yu. "He was so professional and was just so open. And with the character of Terry McTeer, he really liked the idea of Terry being who he projects himself to be, which is America's favorite, trusted uncle. And he did it in a way that is completely genuine, and also really funny."

Ron Heacock, a smarmy, overly confident but tragically insecure contestant on "Can't Stop the Quiz," is played by Jason Schwartzman ("Asteroid City," "The Grand Budapest Hotel"). Ron is looking to become the contestant with the longest winning streak and desperately craves the approval of Terry McTeer.

"Ron was always supposed to be the villain, but he's really just a simple guy," says D'Angelo. "He's not necessarily the worst guy in the world; it's not like he's cheating or anything, he's just a jerk that we love to hate. And Jason brought this level of humanity and vulnerability to the character where you end up feeling hope for Ron at the end. You hope that he will actually become a better person."

"I read the script and the story was great," Schwartzman says, "But when I saw the list of who was working on it and how great that list of people was and how nice and interesting they all were, I knew I had to sign on. I knew it would be a great experience and a fun adventure, so it was a total win/win situation."

"Working with Jason was a dream of mine," says Yu. "And what was delightful is that Ron could be a caricature of a villain, because it's a very funny character on the page, but Jason saw him as one of those guys who smiles and just can't stop smiling. And then he had the idea that he wanted his teeth to be super white, so we had numerous discussions about fake smiles versus genuine smiles. It was a lot of fun trying to figure out the details that would make this character come to life."

Two-time Emmy Award®-winning actor Tony Hale ("Veep") plays Ben Franklin, who impersonates the American statesman and inventor from the front desk of Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Inn & Spa, which he runs. As someone who takes his job very seriously, his feathers are easily ruffled by Jenny Yum's behavior.

"So, my character, the Ben Franklin impersonator, wears braces," says Hale, "And while he is passionate about his work, he gets very frustrated that he has to have modern technology in his hotel. And Sandra's character, Jenny, is constantly making fun of the fact that he has all this modern technology. He gets very offended, but he is just a re-enactor who takes it very, very seriously. It is his life purpose."

"Tony Hale was such an inspired choice for Ben Franklin," says Yu, "because we all knew he was going to do something a little unexpected. I made a documentary about Civil War reenactors a

long time ago, about people who do living history where they inhabit a character. And there's an interesting thing with these reenactors: they need to engage the public and stay in character, and that's a very hard dance to do. Most people play along, but then you get someone like Jenny Yum who ends up sparring with him over his actually trying to be Ben Franklin, and it really flusters him. And Tony brought a certain kind of aggrieved dignity to the role which was just so perfect."

"The interactions between Tony, Sandra, and Nora were hysterical," adds producer Maggie Haskins. "It was so exciting to watch them all play together."

Emmy® winner Holland Taylor ("The Practice") is Francine, Anne Yum's annoying and perpetually crabby neighbor. A lovable curmudgeon, she loves to complain and is content to wallow in doom and gloom. "Francine was one of my favorite characters to write," laughs D'Angelo. "This woman does not give a shit about anyone or anything…she does not want to be bothered."

According to Yu, "I've worked with Holland a couple of times, and she is just so good. She is a legend and is just so game for anything. Her character Francine is kind of like the ghost of Anne Yum's future, in that she is somebody who has chosen this sort of isolated life and disdain for the outside world who keeps her walls up because it makes her feel secure, and Anne sees that and begins to worry that she could end up like her."

"I couldn't be more opposite from Francine," says Holland. She's like a bump on a log. "She was actually a lot of fun to play though, and it was liberating, because habitually, women and actresses, when you're not being filmed, you're sort of off in the corner and everybody is touching up their makeup. And you have so much anxiety that has been built in over how you look, and at a certain point, you just have to throw all that crap out the window because there's nothing to do after a certain age. So, when you're playing a character who literally doesn't do anything, it's very liberating because you're always ready. They say, 'We need you now.' It's like, I'm ready because I don't have anything to do to get ready."

Anne Yum's beloved pooch Mr. Linguini is played by a talented pug named Crosby, who, like most pugs, is quite mellow. "The big challenge we had was just keeping him nice and cool," explains Yu, "and Crosby did a great job of being happily inert. He has a very distinctive tail that is kind of thick and sort of droopy, which just added to the overall specialness of him as a pug."

Fun Filmmaking Facts

Bowtie Hallway on the "Can't Stop the Quiz" soundstage features over 6,000 bowties (50 original and different ties repeated).

Will Ferrell wore 16 different ties while in character as "Can't Stop the Quiz" game show host Terry McTeer.

Director Jessica Yu wore bowties in her hair every day during principal photography.

Scenes taking place at the Ben Franklin & Spa were shot at the Beauregard-Keyes House in New Orleans. The historic residence located in the city's French Quarter was built in 1826 by architect Francois Correjolles for its owner Joseph LeCarpentier. It was purchased and remodeled by author Frances Parkinson Keyes in 1944 and is currently under the ownership of the Keyes Foundation.

To get Crosby, who plays Anne Yum's pug Mr. Linguini to sleep on camera, animal trainer Karen Milliken used a lint roller to relax him so he would fall asleep.

Jason Schwartzman, who plays "Can't Stop the Quiz" game show contestant Ron Heacock, had white tooth paint applied to his teeth (which required constant touch-ups) to make his character look smarmier.

For the flashback scene that takes place at the Heinz Ketchup Museum, the production constructed a set that featured 500 individual ketchup bottles. It took set decorators 45 minutes to rebuild the set piece after it was kicked over by a young Jenny Yum.

On Anne Yum's desk in her office at the beginning of the film, she has a Mr. Linguini bobblehead. The desk in her office at the end of the film features bobbleheads of Terry McTeer and herself.

About the Cast

AWKWAFINA (Anne Yum/Producer) is a Golden Globe®-winning actress, writer, and producer from Queens, New York. She grew up with her given name, Nora Lum and has since used her trademark comedic style and signature flair to become a breakout talent in the entertainment industry. Lum most recently appeared as Scuttle in Disney's live-action "The Little Mermaid," starring Halle Bailey, Jonah Hauer-King, Javier Bardem, and Melissa McCarthy, and the Universal feature film "Renfield," starring alongside Nicholas Cage and Nicholas Hoult. Lum can also be seen in Marvel's "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" in her standout role as Katy and Disney's Oscar®-nominated "Raya and the Last Dragon." Lum also starred in "Jumanji: The Next Level," as well as in MGM's "Breaking News in Yuba County."

Lum received glowing reviews for her starring role in the indie darling "The Farewell," for which she won the Golden Globe Award® for best actress motion picture musical or comedy. The story is based on a true story about a family saying goodbye to their beloved matriarch – the only person who doesn't know she is dying. The small family drama quickly won over viewers and critics alike, with many calling it one of the best films of 2019.

Lum brings an impressive range of talent to everything she does, most famously to Warner Bros.' smash hit "Crazy Rich Asians," opposite Constance Wu, Michelle Yeoh, Henry Golding, and Ken Jeong, in which she starred as Peik Lin. The film opened on August 15, 2018, to rave reviews and four straight weekends of over $20 million at the box office. Lum hosted "Saturday Night Live" that same year as part of the show's 44th season. She starred in another Warner Bros. feature, "Ocean's 8," directed by Gary Ross and alongside an impeccable ensemble cast including Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Mindy Kaling, Sarah Paulson, Rihanna, and Helena

Bonham Carter. Lum can also be seen in two seasons of her Comedy Central show "Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens," which she created and stars in.

Prior to that she starred in the indie comedy "Dude," written and directed by Olivia Milch. In 2016 Lum made her feature film debut in the comedy "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising," with Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne and was heard as the voice of Quail in the animated adventure "Storks." Her first book, Awkwafina's NYC, a travel guide to New York, was published by Penguin Random House in 2015.

SANDRA OH (Jenny Yum/Producer) was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. She started ballet lessons at the age of four and appeared in her first play, "The Canada Goose," at the age of ten. She started working professionally at age 16 in television, theater, and commercials. After three years at the prestigious National Theatre School of Canada, she beat out more than 1,000 other hopefuls and landed the coveted title role in the CBC telefilm "The Diary of Evelyn Lau," based on the true story of a tortured poet who ran away from home and ended up a drug addict and prostitute on the streets of Vancouver. Her performance brought her a Gemini nomination for best actress and the 1994 Cannes FIPA d'Or for best actress.

Oh can be seen starring in the Netflix comedy series "The Chair," for which she received Screen Actors Guild Award® and Critics Choice Award nominations. She also served as an executive producer for the show. She recently completed the fourth and final season of BBC America's "Killing Eve," on which she also serves as executive producer. Oh won a historic Golden Globe Award® for best actress in a drama series, a SAG Award for female actor in a drama series and a Critics Choice Award for lead actress in a drama series for "Killing Eve," and has also received three Emmy Award® nominations for lead actress in a drama series.

On the feature film front, she recently starred in the Disney·Pixar animated film "Turning Red" on Disney+, and in the psychological thriller "Umma" for Sony Pictures. Oh hosted an episode of "Saturday Night Live," for which she was nominated for an Emmy Award® in the category of outstanding guest actress in a comedy series.

She starred in 10 seasons of the hit ABC series "Grey's Anatomy," winning a Golden Globe Award® and Screen Actors Guild Award® and receiving two Emmy Award® nominations for her role as Dr. Cristina Yang. Previously, Oh starred in the enormously successful, Oscar®-winning Fox Searchlight feature film "Sideways," for which she won a Screen Actors Guild Award® for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture.

On stage, Oh starred in "Death and the Maiden" at the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago and completed a sold-out run of the world premiere of "Satellites" at New York's Public Theater for playwright Diana Son. She won her first Genie Award for her leading role in "*Double Happiness*," a bittersweet coming-of-age story about a young Chinese Canadian woman, a performance that brought her much acclaim and secured her place as one of Canada's rising young film stars. Never straying far from her theatre roots, she has also starred in the world premieres of Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters" at the La Jolla Playhouse and Diana Son's "Stop Kiss" at Joseph Papp's

Public Theatre in New York, a role for which she received a Theatre World award. She also performed “The Vagina Monologues” in New York. Recently Oh was back at the Public in New York, in Hansol Jung’s “Wild Goose Dreams,” which participated in the 2016 Sundance MENA workshop in Morocco.

Oh’s additional feature film credits include “Under the Tuscan Sun,” “Defender,” “Blindness,” “The Night Listener,” “For Your Consideration,” “Three Needles,” “Long Life Happiness and Prosperity,” “Sorry, Haters,” “Tammy,” “Ramona and Beezus,” “Rick,” “Bean,” “Guinevere,” “The Red Violin,” “Waking the Dead,” “The Princess Diaries” and “Pay or Play.” She also starred in Michael Radford’s improvised “Dancing at the Blue Iguana,” a bleak and raw view of life in a strip club in Los Angeles. Her performance in “Last Night,” a Canadian film about the end of the world, led to her winning a second Genie Award for best actress in 1999. She moved to Los Angeles in 1996 to begin the first of six seasons as Rita Wu, the smart and sassy assistant on the HBO comedy series “Arliss,” for which she won the final Cable Ace award for best actress in a comedy. More recently she starred in “Catfight,” opposite Anne Heche, and the animated features “Over the Moon,” “Raya and the Last Dragon” and “Window Horses.”

Her additional television credits include the British production of “Thorne: Scaredy Cat,” HBO’s “Six Feet Under,” and Showtime’s “Further Tales of the City.”

Actor/writer/producer **WILL FERRELL (Terry McTeer/Producer)** has created some of film’s most iconic characters with his roles in “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy,” “Elf,” “Step Brothers,” and “Stranger Than Fiction,” among many others. Along with partner Jessica Elbaum, Ferrell is a co-founder of Gloria Sanchez Productions. The company has a three-year first-look deal with Netflix and a multi-year existing first-look film deal at Paramount Pictures. The Netflix deal came on the heels of the incredible overnight success of “Dead to Me,” which aired for three seasons on the streaming service. That same year, “Dead to Me” was nominated for four Emmy Awards®, including outstanding comedy series and outstanding lead actress in a comedy series for Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini respectively. Gloria Sanchez’s recent film and TV credits include “Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar,” “Hustlers,” “Booksmart,” and “Live from a Studio Audience,” all of which garnered both critical acclaim and awards nominations.

In 2022 Ferrell starred alongside Ryan Reynolds and Octavia Spencer in “Spirited.” The holiday musical, written and directed by Sean Anders and John Morris, is a modern retelling of Charles Dickens’ 1843 novella “A Christmas Carol.” The project was released on Apple TV+. He was also featured in Greta Gerwig’s live-action feature “Barbie,” starring alongside Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. Ferrell can also be seen starring opposite Reese Witherspoon in Nick Stoller’s “You’re Cordially Invited.”

Ferrell recently starred in and executive produced the Apple TV+ and Gloria Sanchez TV series “The Shrink Next Door,” directed by Michael Showalter and written by Georgia Pritchett. The show premiered in Fall 2021 and was an eight-episode limited series starring Ferrell, Paul Rudd, and Kathryn Hahn. The series, which is based on the No. 1 new podcast of 2019 by Wondery and

Bloomberg Media, follows the bizarre relationship between a psychiatrist and his longtime patient.

Other recent projects include Netflix's "Eurovision," in which Ferrell starred alongside Rachel McAdams. Ferrell served as a producer on the project through his Gloria Sanchez banner and the movie premiered in Summer 2020. It then went on to receive an Academy Award® nomination for best original song for "Husavik," which was performed by Ferrell in the movie. Ferrell also starred opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus in Searchlight Pictures "Downhill," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2020.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Ferrell became interested in performing while a student at University High School in Irvine, where he made his school's daily morning announcements over the public address system in disguised voices. He started as a member of the Los Angeles comedy/improvisation group The Groundlings, where fellow cast members Ana Gasteyer, Maya Rudolph, and former "Saturday Night Live" repertory players Laraine Newman, Jon Lovitz, and Phil Hartman began their careers. Prior to his time on "Saturday Night Live," he appeared on several television programs, including "Strangers with Candy," "Grace Under Fire," and "Living Single" while still a member of The Groundlings. It was there he met Chris Kattan, and the two became good friends before joining "Saturday Night Live" in 1995.

During his first season, Ferrell was declared quite possibly the worst cast member ever. However, his talented impersonations and wide range of characters soon made him arguably the greatest "Saturday Night Live" cast member ever. Over his seven-year run, Ferrell played George W. Bush and became one of the few cast members to be nominated for an Emmy® for a "Saturday Night Live" performance. In 2002 he left "Saturday Night Live" and was the only cast member to ever receive a farewell from all the current cast members at the end of a season finale show.

Ferrell is widely considered a comedic genius with enormous box-office power, starring in hits "Old School," "Wedding Crashers," "Zoolander," "Talladega Nights," and "Daddy's Home," among many others.

HOLLAND TAYLOR (Francine) is an Emmy®-winning and Tony Award®-nominated actress and playwright who has been a regular fixture of stage and screen for over five decades. She can be seen starring in Ryan Murphy's global hit, "Hollywood," opposite Patti LuPone and Jim Parsons for which she received an Emmy Award nomination for her performance as Ellen Kincaid. Also, for Netflix, she plays a leading role in "The Chair," opposite Sandra Oh and Jay Duplass, as well as a recurring role on the hit AppleTV+ series "The Morning Show."

Taylor won the Emmy Award® for supporting actress in a drama series in 1999 for her groundbreaking performance as Judge Roberta Kittleson on ABC's legal drama "The Practice." She has received a grand total of eight Emmy nominations during her career, including another for "The Practice," one for her guest appearance on the comedy series "The Lot," and an incredible four nominations for her inspired work on CBS's No. 1 sitcom "Two and a Half Men," on which she starred as Charlie Sheen's mother from hell, Evelyn Harper.

Her countless television credits also include the classic comedy “Bosom Buddies,” starring Tom Hanks, the landmark series “The L Word,” NBC’s sitcom “The Naked Truth,” and recently David E. Kelley’s “Mr. Mercedes,” starring Brendan Gleeson based on a series of novels by Stephen King. She also starred in two auspicious Norman Lear projects: “The Powers That Be,” a short-lived, highly acclaimed political satire, as well as the NBC pilot “Guess Who Died,” opposite Hector Elizondo.

On the feature side, Taylor can be seen in “Bill & Ted Face the Music,” the latest installment in the cult-classic film series, in which she stars as The Great Leader opposite Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter, reprising their iconic performances. Her memorable film roles include “Legally Blonde” opposite Reese Witherspoon, Peter Weir’s “The Truman Show” starring Jim Carrey, “One Fine Day” with George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer, “George of the Jungle,” “Baby Mama” starring Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, the classics “Romancing the Stone” and “Jewel of the Nile,” “To Die For” starring Nicole Kidman, “Next Stop Wonderland,” “Happy Accidents,” “Spy Kids,” “Keeping the Faith,” “Gloria Bell” starring Julianne Moore, and Jay Roach’s “Bombshell.” In 2020, she co-starred in Netflix’s hugely popular “To All the Boys,” “P.S. I Still Love You,” and currently is appearing on Netflix in “The Stand-In” starring Drew Barrymore.

In June 2020 PBS’s “Great Performances” aired a filmed version of Taylor’s unforgettable one-woman play, “ANN,” based on the late Texas Governor Ann Richards, which Taylor wrote and starred in across the country and on Broadway, receiving a 2013 Tony Award® nomination for leading actress in a play. For “ANN’s” Broadway engagement at Lincoln Center’s Beaumont Theatre, Taylor also received Drama Desk and Drama League nominations and the Outer Circle Critics Award for best solo performance.

A stage veteran, Taylor most recently appeared on Broadway in 2016 opposite Nathan Lane and John Slattery in the Tony Award®-nominated revival of “The Front Page,” and she made her Broadway debut in 1965 in the play “The Devils.” She also holds the distinction of having appeared in the historic Broadway flop, “Moose Murders,” having taken over for Eve Arden during previews a mere week before opening (and closing).

Her New York stage performances also include David Lindsay-Abaire’s dark comedy “Ripcord,” at Manhattan Theatre Club; Bess in “Breakfast with Les and Bess”; and the original productions of “Butley,” opposite Alan Bates, and A.R. Gurney’s “The Cocktail Hour.” In Los Angeles, she has performed in “Kindertransport,” and played opposite Christopher Lloyd in Yasmina Reza’s “The Unexpected Man” at the Geffen. She has also narrated for the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Stravinsky’s “Persephone” for Esa-Pekka Salonen, and for John Adams in Philip Glass’ “Akhnaten,” and delivered the spoken word in the “Harry Potter Suite” for Maestro John Williams with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Taylor was a dedicated student of Stella Adler and has given talks about the work and cultural contribution of this great teacher. A proud Philadelphia native, she went to Westtown Friends

School and received her B.A. at Bennington College. In 2005 she became a student again, earning an M.A. from the University of Santa Monica.

JASON SCHWARTZMAN (Ron Heacock) most recently starred in Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City." He can next be seen in "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes." He starred opposite Chris Rock and Ben Wishaw in the fourth chapter of the critically acclaimed series "Fargo," and appears in Wes Anderson's "The French Dispatch," a story he co-wrote with Anderson and Roman Coppola. The film is their seventh collaboration.

Schwartzman also has completed Gia Coppola's upcoming film "Mainstream," which stars Andrew Garfield and Maya Hawley, and he voiced the role of Jesper Johansson in the Academy Award®-nominated animated film "Klaus." He appeared in Amy Poehler's feature directorial debut, "Wine Country," and Zach Galifianakis' "Between Two Ferns: The Movie" and the critically acclaimed comedy "Medical Police." Schwartzman co-created the Emmy® and Golden Globe®-winning Amazon series "Mozart in the Jungle" with Roman Coppola, Alex Timbers, and Paul Weitz.

His additional film work includes "Isle of Dogs" (of which he is co-story writer), "The Darjeeling Limited," "The Fantastic Mr. Fox," "The Grand Budapest Hotel," "Listen Up Philip," "Golden Exits," "Polka King," "Wet Hot American Summer," "The Overnight," "Big Eyes," and "Funny People."

TONY HALE (Ben Franklin) is a two-time Emmy Award®-winning actor, producer, and author best known for his role as Gary Walsh, the downtrodden personal aide to Julia Louis-Dreyfus's Selina Meyers on HBO's Emmy-winning political comedy "Veep." Hale won two Emmys for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series for "Veep" in 2013 and 2015, and was nominated in the same category in 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019. "Veep" racked up a total 181 nominations at 62 wins during the course of the show.

Hale has appeared in a wide variety of critically acclaimed television programs and films throughout his career. Prior to "Veep," he co-starred as the socially awkward Buster Bluth in the ground-breaking, Emmy Award®-winning comedy series "Arrested Development," which aired on Fox from 2003 to 2006 and was later picked up for additional seasons by Netflix in 2013. He also co-starred with Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Keanu Reeves, and Christina Hendricks as the voice of Forky in Disney·Pixar's "Toy Story 4," which was released during the summer of 2019 and grossed over $1 billion globally. The film also won the Academy Award® for best animated feature, leading to Pixar greenlighting a series of Forky animated shorts titled, "Forky Asks a Question," which were featured heavily during the launch of Disney+.

Hale also stars in Disney's adventure-drama television series, "The Mysterious Benedict Society," based on the best-selling YA novel by Trenton Lee Stewart. Hale stars in dual roles, playing Mr. Benedict and his twin brother, Mr. Curtain. Hale also costarred alongside Sarah Jessica Parker, Bette Midler, and Kathy Najimy in "Hocus Pocus 2."

In 2021, Hale shared the screen with Nicole Kidman, Javier Bardem, and J.K. Simmons in Amazon's dramatic film "Being the Ricardos," which follows Lucy and Desi as they face a crisis that could end their careers and their marriage. Hale played Jess Oppenheimer, the executive producer of "I Love Lucy."

Hale can also be seen in the Sony Picture Classics drama "Nine Days," which premiered at Sundance. Directed by Edson Oda, the film was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and was also nominated for the Grand Jury Prize during the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

Other projects include the starring role in ScreenMedia's comedy "Eat Wheaties!," opposite Paul Walter Hauser, and the villain in "Clifford the Big Red Dog" from Paramount Pictures. He also lent his voice alongside Lisa Kudrow, Clea DuVall, Will Forte, and more in the Fox animated series "Housebroken."

In September 2019 Hale created an animated children's series on Netflix titled "Archibald's Next Big Thing." Produced by DreamWorks, "ANBT" is based on Hale's first children's book of the same name, published in 2014. "ANBT" follows a young chicken named Archibald who is always looking for his next "big thing" instead of realizing all the big and beautiful things around him. The theme of the book stems from Hale's own struggle of always looking for his next acting role instead of staying present and being in the here and now. "ANBT" features a voice cast including Rosamund Pike, Adam Pally, Chelsea Kane, Jordan Fisher, and Kari Wahlgren. Season 4, now called "Archibald's Next Big Thing Is Here," recently premiered on Peacock.

In 2019 Hale starred in "Wakey, Wakey," the one-man play by award-winning playwright Will Eno at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Hale grew up in Tallahassee, Fl., where he attended the Young Actors Theatre. He then continued on to study acting at The Barrow Group.

About the Filmmakers

JESSICA YU (Director) is an Oscar® and Emmy Award®-winning filmmaker working in various genres. She was nominated for an Emmy and a DGA Award for "Fosse/Verdon." The first Asian American woman to direct a network drama pilot, Yu's series work includes "The Morning Show," "This is Us," "Billions," "Hollywood," "13 Reasons Why," "The Affair," "American Crime," "Lady Dynamite," "Grey's Anatomy," and "The West Wing."

She also directed Maria Bamford's Netflix special "Old Baby." She recently directed on the Amazon series "Citadel" and the premiere episode of the current season of "American Horror Story."

Yu has directed many documentaries, including the Academy Award®-winning "Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien," Participant Media's water crisis film "Last Call at the Oasis," and the Emmy®-nominated "In the Realms of the Unreal," a portrait of outsider artist Henry Darger.

JEN D'ANGELO's (Writer/Producer) reboot of "Hocus Pocus 2" for Disney+ was released this past Halloween. She took the script from conception to completion and was on set for production as well.

Prior to that, D'Angelo was the on-set writer for Skydance's sci-fi feature "The Tomorrow War" starring Chris Pratt. Off that experience, she sold an action-comedy pitch, with Pratt producing and Sam Richardson set to star, to Universal. Recent additional feature-writing credits include "Totally Killer" for Amazon and "The Out-Laws" for Netflix.

On the television side, she is a co-executive producer on the NBC series "Young Rock," starring Dwayne Johnson. Additional credits include "Solar Opposites" (Hulu), "Happy Together," "LA to Vegas," "Workaholics," "The Millers," and "Cougar Town." She's performed on Comedy Central's "Adam Devine's House Party," and starred opposite Nicole Byer on MTV's "Loosely Exactly Nicole."

JESSICA ELBAUM (Producer) launched Gloria Sanchez Productions in 2014 with a focus on female voices in comedy. She was named one of Variety's 10 producers to watch shortly thereafter, and has appeared multiple times in the Hollywood Reporter's The 40(ish) most influential people in comedy as well as its women in entertainment power 100. Her upcoming films include "May December," starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore with Todd Haynes directing, and an untitled evil-stepsisters project for Disney that Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo are writing.

Most recently Elbaum produced Wiig and Mumolo's "Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar," in which they also star, and "Eurovision" for Netflix, starring Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams. Her 2019 film "Hustlers," starring Jennifer Lopez and Constance Wu, garnered awards recognition and grossed over $150 million worldwide.

In 2020 Elbaum won the Independent Spirit Award for best first feature for her film "Booksmart," Olivia Wilde's critically acclaimed feature directorial debut. On the TV side, Elbaum's Emmy®-nominated "Dead to Me," starring Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini, recently completed its third and final season. "The Shrink Next Door," starring Will Ferrell and Paul Rudd, was released on Apple TV+ in November of last year, and "The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window," starring Kristen Bell, premiered on Netflix in late January 2022.

MAGGIE HASKINS (Producer) is a partner at Artists First, a leading management and production company. A former sportswriter and journalist before beginning her career in the entertainment industry, she is passionate about storytelling. In her work as a talent manager and producer, she focuses on amplifying the voices of female creators: writers, actors, directors, and producers. Her client Jen D'Angelo wrote and produced "Quiz Lady."

Haskins is a native of Chicago and a graduate of Brown University.

ITAY REISS (Producer) was born in Israel and raised in Los Angeles. Reiss began his career at United Talent Agency in 1998 and joined Artists First in 2015. Reiss is currently producing the third season of Comedy Central's hit show "Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens." Reiss has also produced the hit feature film "Like a Boss," starring Tiffany Haddish, Rose Byrne, and Salma Hayek, and executive produced the Netflix drama series "Hit and Run" from the creators of "Fauda," Lior Raz, and Avi Issacharoff, along with an animated comedy series for Netflix titled "Hoops" with partners Phil Lord and Chris Miller.

After transitioning into management and production, Reiss worked on a number of hit comedy shows and specials. He produced "Inside Amy Schumer" and executive produced Schumer's special "Mostly Sex Stuff," both for Comedy Central. Reiss executive produced Theo Von's Netflix special "No Offense" and Erik Griffin's Showtime specials "Amerikan Warrior" and "The Ugly Truth," and was a talent producer on Sebastian Maniscalco's Showtime special "What's Wrong with People." In addition, Reiss executive produced the indie comedy "Flock of Dudes" with Kumail Nanjiani, Eric André, Marc Maron, and Chris D'Elia.

Reiss currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Ilana, and their two daughters.

ALEX BROWN (Executive Producer) is the head of film at Gloria Sanchez Productions. She has worked at Gloria for three years as a feature producer. Brown has executive produced "Theater Camp," starring Molly Gordon, Ben Platt, and Noah Galvin for Fox Searchlight; "May December," starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival this year; and "Am I OK," starring Dakota Johnson and Sonoya Mizuno.

She will next be executive producing "You're Cordially Invited," starring Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon for Amazon Studios, as well as other films currently in development. She was previously a production executive under Jennifer Lopez and Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, with credits including "Hustlers" for STX Entertainment and "Marry Me" for Universal Pictures.

ADRIAN PENG CORREIA (Director of Photography) is a New York-based cinematographer who comes from Thai and Latin roots. He has lensed projects all over the globe, starting off cutting his teeth in the indie world and since breaking into major studio film and television projects. He shot season 1 of A24 and Hulu's "Ramy" and has subsequently served as an executive creative advisor for the hit series. Some of his other television credits include season 1 of HBO Max and Steve Yockey's "The Flight Attendant," seasons 1 and 2 of HBO Max and Sam Boyd's "Love Life," AMC and Valerie Armstrong's "Kevin Can F**k Himself," Netflix's "Glow" from Liz Flahive & Carly Mensch, and Netflix and Don Todd's series "Florida Man."

JEFF MANN (Production Designer) designed films that include Gideon Raff's "The Red Sea Diving Resort" for Netflix, Doug Liman's "The Wall" for Amazon, Ben Stiller's "Zoolander 2" for Paramount Pictures, and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" for 20th Century Fox. He also designed Jonathan Mostow's "Surrogates" for Disney, Stiller's "Tropic Thunder" and Michael Bay's "Transformers" for Paramount Pictures, Doug Liman's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" for 20th Century Fox,

Mostow's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," Tom Dey's "Showtime," and Dominic Sena's "Swordfish" for Warner Bros. and Sena's "Gone in 60 Seconds" for Disney.

In television, Mann has worked with Apple TV+ as the visual consultant on "Severance" with Ben Stiller, a frequent collaborator of his, and with director Jay Roach on "High Desert." He also designed the HBO series "The Outsider."

BRENDA ABBANDANDOLO (Costume Designer) is a New York-based costume designer for stage and film. Her design career started in the independent film and theater scene and over time matured into larger ventures with several longtime collaborators. She has had the opportunity to work in many genres and styles, and to do projects as varied as "SNL" to "The Wolf Hour" with Naomi Watts. She also designed Sian Heder's Oscar®-winning feature "Coda," which sold to Apple TV+ for a record-breaking $25 million after its Sundance premiere, as well as the Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe®-winning feature "The Disaster Artist."

Her work on "Coda" was applauded by The Hollywood Reporter for stressing authenticity in her color, pattern, and texture choices for styling the deaf community, a vital role in the film's non-verbal storytelling.

Her most recent work includes costume designing the 2023 Lionsgate film "About My Father," starring Robert De Niro and Kim Cattrall, Netflix's 2022 feature "Along for the Ride," and the comedy feature "An American Pickle," directed by Brandon Trost and starring Seth Rogen. She also worked on Netflix's two-time Oscar®-nominated feature "tick, tick… BOOM," starring Andrew Garfield and Alexandra Shipp.

In addition to costume designing for film, Abbandandolo has designed numerous off-Broadway and regional plays. Most recently she designed for the live internet play "Russian Troll Farm," which became a NY Times critics' pick. She has worked on many plays with Rachel Chavkin and the New York theater company "The Team," for whom she serves as an associate costume designer. She has also worked with Lyndsey Turner, Daniel Aukin, Heather Christian, and Annie Tippe. In 2019 she designed Dave Malloy and Chavkin's "Moby-Dick" at the American Repertory Theater, which received an Elliot Norton Award nomination from the Boston Theater Critics Association.

She began her career as an assistant on and off-Broadway working with designers from William Ivey Long to Ann Roth, and then made the jump to assisting in television and film. She decided to nurture her creative pursuits and attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts graduate program in design for stage and film, where she had the opportunity to design for theater and film directors with whom she developed long-term collaborative relationships.

Abbandandolo resides in downtown New York with her husband, baby boy, and two cats.

SUSAN VAILL, ACE (Editor) is an editor of both comedy and drama series, including "Hacks," "This Is Us," "Space Force," and "Grey's Anatomy." Her love of music-driven storytelling has led her to

be described as “a legendary music supervisor masquerading as an award-winning editor.” In 2022 Vaill won the ACE Eddie Award for television comedy editing for the “Hacks” episode “1.69 Million,” and she received a 2021 Emmy® nomination for editing the “Hacks” episode “Primm,” along with an HPA Award for editing the “Hacks” episode “Falling.”

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Vaill first entered the film industry in an ‘80s Doublemint gum commercial and the Hal Ashby film “Bound for Glory.” She studied film theory and art history at Williams College and got an MFA in film production at USC. After assistant editing on documentaries and feature films like “The Last Samurai,” she edited over 70 episodes of “Grey’s Anatomy,” which won the Golden Globe® for best drama series in 2008. Her very first episode “Into You Like a Train,” was nominated for the DGA Award in drama. Vaill also directed three episodes of the series, one of which featured an Emmy®-winning performance by guest actress Loretta Devine.

After a decade at “Grey’s Anatomy,” Vaill turned to comedy, editing the HBOMAX series “Hacks,” led by Jean Smart, “Space Force,” led by Steve Carrell, “Grandfathered,” led by John Stamos, and “Me, Myself & I,” led by Bobby Moynihan and John Larroquette. She returned to drama to edit the HBO limited series “The Time-Traveler’s Wife,” the award-winning NBC drama “This Is Us,” and the critically acclaimed AMC dramedy “Lodge 49.” Her “Lodge 49” episodes “Circles” and “Le Reve Impossible” earned spots on the New York Times’ and Entertainment Weekly’s year-end lists of best episodes of television of 2019.

She has edited six television pilots and helped launch eight shows in their first season. In 2018 Vaill was elected to the Society of American Cinema Editors, and in 2019 she spearheaded “Bumped Up: The Leadership Workshop for New Editors,” a recurring event co-sponsored by ACE and the Editors Guild. You can also find her on the golf course, at a sewing machine, or at karaoke singing “I’m on a Boat” by The Lonely Island.

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